



Scope of Initiative UN Partnerships for the MDGs

As announced in the 2008-09 Budget, the Australian Government will commence a significant new package of initiatives laying the foundation for implementing its long-term commitment to increase Australia's international development assistance to 0.5 per cent of Gross National Income (GNI) by 2015-16.

The *UN Partnership for the MDGs* initiative aims to support and strengthen United Nations (UN) leadership of global efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by providing increased core funding to seven selected UN agencies on a multi-year basis.

The *UN Partnership for the MDGs* initiative represents a major strengthening of Australia's relationship with the UN. It is also part of the Government's commitment to revitalising Australia's engagement with the UN; one of the three pillars of the Australian Government's foreign policy.

The initiative will invest \$200 million over 4 years in additional core contributions to the seven selected UN agencies. This will include \$10 million in 2008-09, \$40 million in 2009-10, \$60 million in 2010-11 and \$90 million in 2011-12.

Additional core contributions will initially be provided the following agencies:

- UN Development Programme (UNDP);
- UN Children's Fund (UNICEF);
- World Health Organisation (WHO);
- UN Population Fund (UNFPA);
- Joint UN Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS);
- UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM); and
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA).

AusAID works with all of these agencies and in some cases, such as UNICEF, for example, Australia's relationship goes back decades. These agencies were selected to benefit from the *UN Partnership for the MDGs* initiative on the basis of the central part they play in global efforts to achieve the MDGs, their effectiveness in achieving development results, and their commitment to reform.

This funding aims to help improve the performance of the seven UN agencies by ensuring greater budget predictability and financial stability; enabling them to plan their development activities with more certainty.



Australia's core contributions under the *UN Partnership for the MDGs* initiative will help the work of the seven UN agencies in areas as diverse as ensuring children across the globe can go to school, reducing the number of mothers and babies who die from complications during birth by increasing the number of pregnant women whose deliveries are assisted by medical professionals, and saving lives by improving the speed and effectiveness of emergency operations when natural disasters or conflicts occur.